

REMARKS

By this Amendment claim 105 has been amended to include the features of claims 106 and 117 (now canceled) and to otherwise better define the invention, claims 107-110, 113, 115, 116, 118-125 and 128 have been amended to improve their presentations, and claims 111, 127, 129, 131 and 133 have been canceled. Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action of March 23, 2006, the examiner has (1) rejected certain claims under 35 U.S.C. 112 as failing to properly define the invention, and (2) rejected claims 105-133 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over, WO 96/17982.

With respect to the examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, the claims have been extensively revised to address the examiner's criticisms and it is believed that they comply with all requirements of the statute.

With respect to the examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102/103, the inventors do not think this rejection can be applied to the amended claims.

WO 96/17982 discloses a fiber-forming polymer blend, and pigmented fibers formed therefrom, which includes a nylon polymer, a sulfonated non-nylon polymer and between 0.1 and 0.5% pigment.

The present invention, as now defined in claim 105, is directed to a method of forming colored synthetic fibers having improved color strength and dimensional stability wherein a melt blend of a fiber-forming

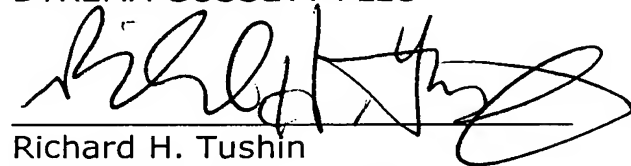
polyamide, an unsulfonated thermoplastic polyester, a colorant system, and a metal sulfonate polyester compatibilising additive is formed, filaments are formed therefrom, and fibers formed from the drawn filaments. WO 96/17982 does not disclose or suggest the use of an unsulfonated thermoplastic polyester. This additive provides the fibers with improved dimensional stability.

The examiner's prior art rejection should be withdrawn and the presented claims allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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